

# Regional AGENDA

## METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

June 1999

### County Receives Highest Bond Rating in the Nation

The Metropolitan King County Council was recently informed that Moody's, the international credit rating agency, has rated the county's voter-approved bonds at "Triple-A" the highest bond rating possible. King County is the first county on the West Coast, and possibly the first in the United States, to achieve this rating.

"This is good news for the taxpayers," said Councilmember Jane Hague, Chair of the Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee. "The higher bond rating means the county will pay less to borrow money and it is a testament to our strong financial management practices."

Committee Vice Chair Greg Nickels added, "This is the strongest endorsement of financial practices that a local government can receive. It shows we are keeping faith with the voters in our budgeting decisions."

### Safety and Service on Metro Transit

Security and citizen service were at the heart of initiatives approved in the last two months to improve King County Metro Transit. The Metropolitan King County Council took action to make buses safer for drivers and citizens and it voted to set up a 15-member advisory committee to keep Metro service among the best in the country.

Metropolitan King County Councilmember Greg Nickels heard from bus drivers who have been bothered, and even temporarily blinded, by small laser pointers. He introduced a change to Metro's Code of Conduct that puts an end to the use of laser pointers on buses. Under the measure, approved unanimously by the Council, the laser pointers can not be aimed at drivers, passengers or vehicles near the bus.

Nickels said, "With the growing popularity of these lasers, all drivers and passengers are at increased risk of danger. Let's keep Star Wars in the theaters, not on the bus." During the past six months, there have been nearly 40 complaints related to the

use of pointers. In some cases, the laser was shot directly into the driver's eyes. In other cases, passengers have tried to bounce the laser off the rearview mirror into the driver's eyes.

The laser pointers, originally meant to highlight text in

presentations, have become inexpensive toys as small as a key chain.

### Public involved in planning for Metro's Future

The council has also increased public involvement in planning King County Metro Transit's future to insure it

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Councilmember Greg Nickels demonstrates how distracting laser pointers can be to Metro bus drivers and passengers.

Metropolitan King County Council • Room 1200 King County Courthouse • 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-3272

District 1 Maggi Fimia 296-1001  
District 2 Cynthia Sullivan 296-1002  
District 3 Louise Miller 296-1003  
District 4 Larry Phillips 296-1004  
District 5 Dwight Pelz 296-1005

District 6 Rob McKenna 296-1006  
District 7 Pete von Reichbauer 296-1007  
District 8 Greg Nickels 296-1008  
District 9 Kent Pullen 296-1009  
District 10 Larry Gossett 296-1010

District 11 Jane Hague 296-1011  
District 12 Brian Derdowski 296-1012  
District 13 Chris Vance 296-1013  
General Phone 296-1000  
TTY / TDD 296-1024

## County Council says "No" to Construction Cost Overruns

The Metropolitan King County Council sent a clear message to baseball in June; the county will not pay for cost overruns at the new baseball stadium. Sponsored by Councilmember Larry Phillips, the motion pledges the county to its original agreement, that excess revenues from the stadium-funding package should be used for early retirement of the bonds.

Phillips said, "A deal is a deal. The Mariners should consider that money untouchable." The measure passed on a unanimous vote.

## Metropolitan King County Council receives 1999 VISION 2020 Award

Each year the Puget Sound Regional Council presents VISION 2020 Awards for innovative projects and programs that help promote a livable region.

The Metropolitan King County Council was recently presented with a VISION 2020 award for its work on the Upper Snoqualmie Regional Open Space Initiative. This Initiative unites citizens, local businesses and King County in a positive plan to overcome land use conflicts and preserve rural character around Preston, four miles east of Issaquah on Interstate 90.



Councilmembers (left to right) Brian Derdowski, Larry Phillips and Louise Miller, County Executive Ron Sims (center back), were presented with a 1999 VISION 2020 Award from the Puget Sound Regional Council.

## King County has fun in

King County offers dozens of recreational opportunities for local residents, no matter where they live.

There are fun classes and activities for kids, teens, adults, families and seniors that get you in touch with your creative side, or help you stay fit.

Summertime in King County is a great time to plan an outing and enjoy the great outdoors at a wide

variety of county facilities. We have in-city and out-in-the-country parks with shelters, built-in BBQs, picnic tables, play-grounds and swim areas.

You can also learn about the flora and fauna in this beautiful and abundant area. There are naturalists who will guide you through King County parks to discover out-of-the-way wetlands, songbirds or cougars. Or, just get in touch with your senses and enjoy the tranquility only a natural experience can provide.

To receive a free copy of the county's *Rec Guide*, send an email request to [scott.waterman@metrokc.gov](mailto:scott.waterman@metrokc.gov), or call 206-296-4232. You can also drop by any King County Library, King County Park System facility, or King County pool to pick

one up. The parks department's website at [www.metrokc.gov/parks](http://www.metrokc.gov/parks) is full of good tips for enjoying a great summer:

### PARKS

The King County Park System has over 160 parks and natural areas. Some — like Marymoor Park and Cougar Mountain Regional Wild-land Park — are very well known. Others, such as Coalfield Park, are tucked away just waiting to be discovered.



Council Chair Louise Miller was recently honored by the Sammamish Rowing Club. Miller christened the club's first rowing scull, named after her in appreciation for her support and assistance in finding a permanent home for the organization.

The county recently reopened Cottage Lake Park between Woodinville and Duvall. The park improvements total \$1.8 million and include a

new picnic shelter, boat launch, fishing pier, restrooms, a refurbished outdoor basketball court and stream restoration work on Daniels Creek.

The best place to start exploring the county's park system is with the King County parks and trails atlas on the Internet at [www.metrokc.gov/parks/atlas](http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/atlas).

### CAMPING

Looking for a great place to camp that's also close to home? Try King County's Tolt MacDonald Park and Campground in Carnation. Tolt MacDonald Park has dozens of campsites near the Snoqualmie River, and individual spots are only \$15 per night.

# the sun...and the rain

The park features 38 individual camping sites and two group sites. Individual sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis through a convenient self-registration system and payment drop-box. The two group sites can be reserved, but walk-ups are welcome if the sites aren't already booked. To reserve a group camp site or picnic shelter, call the King County Park System at 206-296-2966.

## SWIMMING

The county operates 17 swimming pools, plus five outdoor swimming beaches.

Aquatic safety is important year-round, but even more so in the summer. The King County Park System is proud to teach more swimming lessons than just about any other organization in Western Washington. We also provide summer lifeguards at five area beaches.

For more information about pools, beaches or swimming lessons, stop by your local King County Park System pool, or call 206-296-4232.

## HIKING, BIKING & RIDING

King County is home to one of the largest trail networks in the nation. The King County Regional Trail Systems consists of more than 200 miles of trails. The trail system is a major component of King County open space that connects urban areas with parks, shorelines, rural valleys and the higher elevations.

Bicycling is a popular activity here, and the county highlights where to go in a comprehensive guidemap

published last year. The map is available at REI stores, or by calling 206-689-4741. Also, check out the county's biking website at [www.metrokc.gov/bike](http://www.metrokc.gov/bike).

The county is always seeking ways to improve the trail system. Last year, it purchased an 11-mile stretch of former Burlington Northern/Santa Fe rail line on the east side of Lake Sammamish to link sections of the regional trail network. The new link is currently not open to the public while a master plan is being developed.

## SUMMER EVENTS

### King County Fair July 20-25

The King County Fair is the oldest fair west of the Mississippi. Come see why *Seattle Best Places* calls the fair in Enumclaw "Washington's best county fair!"



1998 King County Fair Participants

The King County Fair is one of the best bargains around. Adult admission is just \$7, seniors are \$5, kids 15 and under are \$3.50, and kids under 6 get in free. On-site parking is

only \$3.50. Once you're inside the gates, there are lots of free things to do and see.

### Heritage Festival July 3-4

The Heritage Festival is a 26-year-old tradition at King County's Marymoor Park celebrating the diverse ethnic backgrounds of the people settling in the area through music, dance and food. Exhibits include: the Mountain Men, the Oregon Trail Travelers, historic livestock exhibits, Native American totem carvers, and Master Crafts people.

# Safety and Service...

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stays one of the nation's premier transit systems. Working through the Regional Transit Committee, which includes county councilmembers, as well as representatives from Seattle and suburban cities, the council has

decided to form a 15 member Transit Advisory Committee.

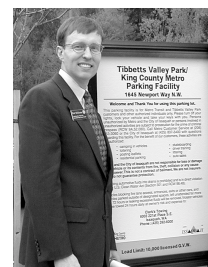


Councilmember Maggi Fimia

Councilmember Maggi Fimia, Chair of the Regional Transit Committee, said, "This will dramati-

cally expand the public's role in transit planning. It allows us to continue our commitment to community based transit planning on a long-term and broader basis."

The Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee, Councilmember Rob McKenna, added, "What we need is more citizen input on King County Metro's next six-year transit service plan. Metro will soon be working side-by-side with Sound Transit to improve regional transportation, and we want to make sure that our riders have a strong voice in those decisions."



Councilmember Rob McKenna at the dedication the new Tibbetts Valley park-and-ride.

Committee members will be appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the county council. The members must be transit riders and will reflect geographic distribution and the population diversity of the county.



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Metropolitan King County Council

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## What we're doing . . .



PHOTO: THE ISSAQUAH PRESS

Issaquah Kiwanis Club member Kathleen Drew recently presented Councilmember Larry Phillips with the "Environmental Excellence" award at the Issaquah Community Awards. The environmental honor is bestowed annually by the Kiwanis Club of Issaquah. Phillips was recognized for his efforts to preserve and protect our natural resources, including farmlands, forest-lands and fish and wildlife habitat.

Issaquah Kiwanis Club member Kathleen Drew recently presented Councilmember Larry Phillips with the "Environmental Excellence" award at the Issaquah Community Awards. The environmental honor is bestowed annually by the Kiwanis Club of Issaquah. Phillips

Members of the council's Utilities and Natural Resources Committee recently held a meeting at Village Theatre in Issaquah. From left: Larry Gossett, Larry Phillips, Committee Chair Pete von Reichbauer, Kent Pullen and Louise Miller. Once a month during the summer, the committee will meet in a location that has received financial support from King County. An upcoming destination includes the King County Fair in Enumclaw in July.



Celia Wilson and her parents with Councilmember Brian Derdowski (center).



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (left) with student scholar Leslie Chacko.

## 1999 Student Scholar Celebration

The Metropolitan King County Council recently held its 14th annual Student Scholar Celebration, honoring graduating high school seniors who maintained a 4.0 grade point average, or are in the top one percent of their class.



Student Andy Chow (right) and friend with Councilmember Larry Gossett (center) during Student Scholar Celebration.



Emily Locke and family with Councilmember Dwight Pelz (right).